

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 213

By Yager

A RESOLUTION to encourage the Tennessee Department of Agriculture and representatives of Tennessee's vineyard owners and retail wine industry to discuss the formation of a statewide wine trail.

WHEREAS, today, the production of commercial wines and grapes within the State is a viable agricultural industry, as Tennessee is home to more than forty wineries and 150 vineyards producing award-winning wines from locally grown grapes; and

WHEREAS, a number of these wineries and vineyards have banded together to establish local wine trails, whereby they promote their products by encouraging visitors to visit each participating winery and vineyard in a defined area; and

WHEREAS, such wine trails are made possible when the entire area can be covered in a day or two, with visiting guests receiving a "passport" to have stamped at each stop and a special gift from the last winery visited; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee is home to a number of local wine trails, including the Rocky Top Wine Trail and Great Valley Wine Trail located in East Tennessee, the Natchez Trace Wine Trail between Nashville and Jackson, the Wine Trail of West Tennessee extending from Jackson to Memphis, the High Country Wine Trail in the Appalachian high country, and the Upper Cumberland Wine Trail showcasing the region surrounding Jamestown, Crossville, Cookeville, and Lafayette; and

WHEREAS, the development of a statewide wine trail across Tennessee would combine the scenic natural beauty of our State with the tremendous wines and grapes produced by our many wineries and vineyards; and

WHEREAS, developing and promoting such a wine trail would result in untold economic benefits for communities across the State through the additional sales of wine products and the expenditure of dollars for transportation, meals, and lodging by our visitors; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we encourage the Tennessee Department of Agriculture and representatives of Tennessee's vineyard owners and retail wine industry to discuss the formation of a statewide wine trail.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared and transmitted to the commissioner of the department of agriculture.